

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. A complete listing of all pending claims is presented below.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reproducing a recorded signal comprising:
a head assembly including multiple reproducing heads provided for a single track with said heads being deviated in their positions from each other in the track width direction; and
a reproduced signal processor for performing error correction processing on data generated from a signal obtained by said multiple reproducing heads, discriminating a reproducing head whose tracing condition of a target track is appropriate from said multiple reproducing heads based on a result of the error correction, and generating an output signal using a signal obtained by the discriminated reproducing head wherein said reproduced signal processor executes said error correction and, when obtaining an error correction result indicating that the error correction is possible, the reproduced signal processor determines that a reproducing head corresponding to data, said data obtaining the error correction result, is a reproducing head whose tracing condition of a target track is appropriate.

2. (Previously Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reproduced signal processor performs the error correction using an internal code parity.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim [3] 1, wherein said reproduced signal processor discriminates a reproducing head whose tracing condition of said target track is appropriate using the error correction result obtained through said error correction and track identification information indicated by a signal obtained by said multiple reproducing heads.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein in one of the cases where multiple error correction results each indicating that the error correction is possible are obtained and where an error correction result indicating that the error correction is impossible is obtained, said reproduced signal processor determines that the reproducing head reading out a signal, said signal including said track information indicating said target track, is a reproducing head whose tracing condition of said target track is appropriate.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said track records signals successively by the sync-block unit and said reproduced signal processor discriminates a reproducing head whose tracing condition of said target track is appropriate using the error correction result and the track identification information based on a signal gained by tracing the same sync-block section, by the sync-block unit.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a driving device for driving said head assembly in said track width direction corresponding to an amount of off track with respect to said target track.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for reproducing recorded signal comprising the steps of:

reproducing the recorded signal using a head assembly including multiple reproducing heads provided for a single track with said heads being deviated in their positions from each other in a track width direction; and

processing reproduced signal, said reproduced signal processing step including the sub-steps of:

performing error correction processing on data generated from a signal obtained by said multiple reproducing heads;

discriminating a reproducing head whose tracing condition of a target track is appropriate from said multiple reproducing heads based on a result of the error correction; and

generating an output signal using a signal obtained by the discriminated reproducing head,

wherein said error correction processing is performed in said reproduced signal processing step and when obtaining an error correction result indicating that the error correction is possible, it is determined that a reproducing head corresponding to data, said data obtaining the error correction result, is a reproducing head whose tracing condition of a target track is appropriate.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein an error correction processing is performed in said reproduced signal processing step using an internal code parity.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [10] 8, wherein a reproducing head whose tracing condition of said target track is appropriate is discriminated in said reproduced signal processing step using the error correction result obtained through said error correction and track identification information indicated by a signal obtained by said multiple reproducing heads.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein in one of the cases where multiple error correction results each indicating that the error correction is possible are obtained and where an error correction result indicating that the error correction is impossible is obtainable, it is determined that the reproducing head reading out a signal, said signal including said track information indicating said target track, is a reproducing head whose tracing condition of said target track is appropriate.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said track records signals successively by the sync-block unit and in said reproduced signal processing step, a discrimination of a reproducing head whose tracing condition of said target track is appropriate is performed using the error correction result and the track identification information based on a signal gained by tracing the same sync-block section, by the sync-block unit.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising a driving step for driving said head assembly in said track width direction corresponding to an amount of off track with respect to said target track.

15. (New) An apparatus for reproducing a recorded signal comprising:

a head assembly including multiple reproducing heads provided for a single track with said heads being deviated in their positions from each other in the track width direction; and

a reproduced signal processor for performing error correction processing on data generated from a signal obtained by said multiple reproducing heads, discriminating a reproducing head whose tracing condition of a target track is appropriate from said multiple reproducing heads based on a result of the error correction, and generating an output signal using a signal obtained by the discriminated reproducing head and,

further comprising a driving device for driving said head assembly in said track width direction corresponding to an amount of off track with respect to said target track.

16. (New) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said reproduced signal processor performs the error correction using an internal code parity.

17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said reproduced signal processor discriminates a reproducing head whose tracing condition of said target track is appropriate using the error correction result obtained through said error correction and track identification information indicated by a signal obtained by said multiple reproducing heads.

18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein in one of the cases where multiple error correction results each indicating that the error correction is possible are obtained and where an error correction result indicating that the error correction is impossible is obtained, said reproduced signal processor determines that the reproducing head reading out a signal, said

signal including said track information indicating said target track, is a reproducing head whose tracing condition of said target track is appropriate.

19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said track records signals successively by the sync-block unit and said reproduced signal processor discriminates a reproducing head whose tracing condition of said target track is appropriate using the error correction result and the track identification information based on a signal gained by tracing the same sync-block section, by the sync-block unit.

20. (New) A method for reproducing recorded signal comprising the steps of:

reproducing the recorded signal using a head assembly including multiple reproducing heads provided for a single track with said heads being deviated in their positions from each other in a track width direction; and

processing reproduced signal, said reproduced signal processing step including the sub-steps of:

performing error correction processing on data generated from a signal obtained by said multiple reproducing heads;

discriminating a reproducing head whose tracing condition of a target track is appropriate from said multiple reproducing heads based on a result of the error correction; and

generating an output signal using a signal obtained by the discriminated reproducing head, and

further comprising a driving step for driving said head assembly in said track width direction corresponding to an amount of off track with respect to said target track.

21. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein an error correction processing is performed in said reproduced signal processing step using an internal code parity.

22. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein a reproducing head whose tracing condition of said target track is appropriate is discriminated in said reproduced signal processing step using the error correction result obtained through said error correction and track identification information indicated by a signal obtained by said multiple reproducing heads.

23. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein in one of the cases where multiple error correction results each indicating that the error correction is possible are obtained and where an error correction result indicating that the error correction is impossible is obtainable, it is determined that the reproducing head reading out a signal, said signal including said track information indicating said target track, is a reproducing head whose tracing condition of said target track is appropriate.

24. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said track records signals successively by the sync-block unit and in said reproduced signal processing step, a discrimination of a reproducing head whose tracing condition of said target track is appropriate is performed using the error correction result and the track identification information based on a signal gained by tracing the same sync-block section, by the sync-block unit.